

artist of *tomorrow*

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission is pleased to announce its inaugural Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship winners. These five high-school seniors were selected from a talented pool of aspiring artists to receive a one-time gift to an accredited college or university in the fields of dance, theatre, music and the literary and visual arts. These five impassioned students represent our arts future, and we look forward to watching their continued growth, development and maturity as aspiring artists.

Meet Our Artists of Tomorrow



Visual Art

Kayee Au

Age: 17

Current School: Enloe High School

Immersing herself in art at a very young age, Kayee Au is already an accomplished painter. Her painting, "The Colors of My Community" placed in the Sister Cities International Young Artist Showcase and was presented as a gift from the Town of Cary to Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of former President Eisenhower. In 2009, Kayee was selected to participate in the NC Governor's School for visual art. "Art is one of the most essential aspects of life for me. Through drawings and paintings, I can express my feelings, thoughts, and the world around me," says Kayee.

Kayee shares her talent as an art tutor to underprivileged children at the Raleigh Academy of Chinese Language and at the HOUSE Theatre in Cary. "Not only does the art I create help me reflect and understand myself, but I find that it is often a source of inspiration and encouragement to others — an experience I hope to make into a lifetime journey through the legacy of my artistic career."

Inspired by films such as "Lord of the Rings" and "Finding Nemo", Kayee plans to become an animation film producer, where she can combine her artistic talent with positive social messages.

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Literary

Lauren Bullock

Age: 17

Current School: Middle Creek High School

As a writer, Lauren Bullock believes in the power of words to harness emotion. Her poetry is infused with her passion and demonstrates her skill in self-expression.

"The written word for me is a consistent catharsis, a means to breathe out life," says Lauren. "Ever since I learned to write, I have taken up a pen in the name of creative expression as a means to express my soul and who I am. Simply put, writing is living."

Lauren's work earned her the title, "2009 Best Writer" at Middle Creek High School. Her artistry is coupled with a firm understanding of the technical aspects of language. "Through poetry I've learned how to thicken pain on the texture of sound while wringing every bit of meaning from a word," she says. With a passion and conviction for sharing her talent with others, Lauren tutors adults at the Raleigh Rescue Mission and will pursue teaching after completing her college studies.



Theatre/Musical Theatre

Emily Gardenhire

Age: 18

Current School: Apex High School

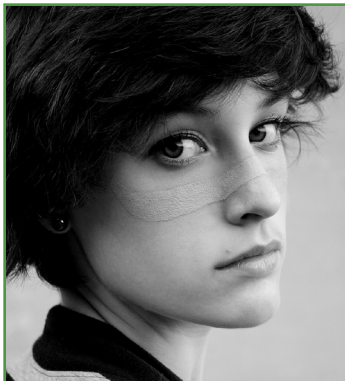
Emily Gardenhire knew she wanted to be a performer ever since her on-stage performance as a cast member of AIDA. Performing "The Gods Love Nubia" during the joint Wake County Public School System and Broadway Series South production, Emily experienced

a transformational moment as an aspiring artist. Feeling inspired, free and peaceful, Emily knew then that she wanted to perform for the rest of her life.

"Creating art is very important to me because it is how I express myself," says Emily. "It is how I show my feelings, dedication, and passion. It is the way I share myself with others and, hopefully, influence them in a positive way."

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Dancing since the age of five and singing and acting since she was eight years old, Emily is described as a “budding triple threat” by Ray Walker, artistic director at the North Carolina Theatre Conservatory, where Emily has performed since 2000. Through all her theater experiences, Emily accesses a different world — a world where she can dream, create and use her personal experiences to impart a new vision of the world to her audiences. Emily plans to major in musical theatre and move to New York City upon graduation. “My dream to become an Artist of Tomorrow is one that I am committed to for the rest of my life.”



Dance

April Grossi

Age: 17

Current School: Leesville Road High School

April Grossi didn't always want to be a dancer. Forced into taking the sixth-grade elective Intro to Dance, April burst into tears. In a twist of ironic fate, dancing is now a safe haven for April — where she can funnel that same passion into original dance choreography for her high school dance group and as a student at the Governor's School of North Carolina.

“Creating art is important because you can't make a mistake,” she says. “It is a no bounds place where the impossible happens and where I get a chance to let my imagination live.”

As an aspiring dance choreographer, April hopes to dissolve the line between dancers and their audiences through work that allows the audience to share in the connective experience. “When I have created something, I have given a part of myself to the world that will always be there,” she says. “It's out there, and I can see it and I can say, ‘I did that. That was me.’”

Described by her mentors as “visionary, progressive, intelligent and humble,” April wants to be a dancer for Cirque du Soleil after completing a major in Dance Choreography and Performance.

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Music

Lucas Morrow

Age: 18

Current School: Southeast Raleigh High School

Lucas Morrow is happiest when playing his trumpet for others to enjoy – audiences that include his high school, NC Symphony Young All Stars, his church, the New Orleans French Quarter and a friend's funeral. "I enjoy witnessing individuals react and respond to my music just as much as I enjoy performing and personalizing the

music I play," says Lucas.

Playing first chair for his high-school marching and symphonic bands, lead trumpet for the school's wind and jazz ensemble, and first trumpet for the Triangle Youth Philharmonic, Lucas feels at home playing the trumpet. "I am able to express myself through my music unlike any other art or activity I have done. It is something that makes me unique and in turn makes my music unique as well." Lucas plans to continue performing while studying musical education or trumpet performance.

